

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Patent Application of:

Yasutoshi OKUNO et al.

Serial No. 10/032,564

Filed: January 2, 2002

For: METHOD FOR FABRICATING
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

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Examiner: Michelle Estrada

Group Art Unit: 2823

Confirmation No. 5824

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180 to deposit account no. 19-2380 to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)


The undersigned certifies that either (1) each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this statement, or (2) no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Enclosed is a copy of a Notice of Reasons of Rejection dated December 2, 2003, for a corresponding Japanese patent application together with the references cited therein.

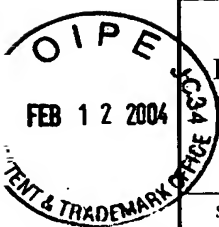
It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. (740819-725)

Respectfully submitted,
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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Application Number | 10/032,564 |
| | | | | Filing Date | January 2, 2002 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Yasutoshi OKUNO |
| | | | | Art Unit | 2823 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Michelle Estrada |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 740819-725 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials [*] | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number - Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
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| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | JP 10-209399 A | 08-07-1998 | Kin et al. | | Abstract |
| | | JP 2000-357783 A | 12-26-2000 | Fukuzumi | | Abstract |
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| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
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| Examiner Initials [*] | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
| | | NOTICE OF REASONS OF REJECTION DATED DECEMBER 2, 2003 | |
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|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.